

Theme houses plan events, residents extend 'aggressive invitation' to students

Evelyn Alvarez
Staff Writer

This semester has seen some changes in the theme houses. The French House and the International House have been replaced by the ASiA House and the Environmental Concerns House in Embury Hall. Umoja House has relocated from Embury Hall to Lewis House, and the Russian House, which alternates yearly with the German House, is located on the first floor of Haselton Hall. In addition, the Spanish

House is in Davies House and the Womyn's Concerns House is in Hannon House.

There are, however, problems associated with the current organization of the theme houses. The academic departments affiliated with some of the current or former theme houses are worried about the apparent lack of enthusiasm on the part of students where cultural events are concerned. The French department, for example, lost its bid on Lewis House last semester but is hoping to revive interest among students during the

course of the year and to re-establish the Maison Francophone for the 1995-96 academic year.

The ultimate goal of all the theme houses is to bring a sense of awareness to the Drew community about the different interests on campus through events such as open houses, panel discussions, poetry readings, dinners and movie viewings.

According to one of the theme house resident assistants, junior Andrea Caliz, the theme house residents are hoping to involve

other students in both special events and the day-to-day activities of the theme houses.

"We want students to be in our houses, to see who lives here ... to see if they want to live here next year ... It's sort of an aggressive invitation," Caliz said. One such event is a bazaar sponsored by Kuumba, the Pan-African Student Organization, and supported by Umoja House. The bazaar will take place Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. behind Brothers College.

The theme houses have also introduced a monthly newsletter called *Common Unity*, available in the lobby of the Womyn's Concerns House, which contains information about upcoming events and issues of interest. Juniors Andrea Caliz and Kai-Ping Wang, the resident assistants for all six theme houses, are responsible for issuing the newsletter.

Though it is still early in the semester, all of the theme houses are organizing a variety of events related to their respective concerns.

The Environmental Concerns House, for example, is considering posting a weekly "environmentally aware tip" in the Commons and introducing a radio spot on WMNJ.

The Womyn's Concerns House is another example. It is currently engaged in an effort to bring renowned speakers, like women's rights advocate Phyllis Frank, to Drew during Rape Awareness Week in early October.



THE ACORN FILE PHOTO

Lewis House, previously known as the Maison Francophone, now belongs to the Umoja House.

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Second Year Seminar

Budget constraints threaten future of study abroad program

Alison Kinney
Assistant News Editor

Because the pilot testing of the Second Year Seminar program ends this year, the future of the program remains uncertain.

The second year seminar features a month-long intensive study period abroad as well as pre- and post-travel classes, as compared to the semester-long programs Drew also offers.

This year, faculty and students chosen to attend the seminar will travel to Costa Rica, Egypt, the European Union, Israel, or Russia. Students who have attended such seminars in the past responded enthusiastically to the program.

Over the past three years, the program has received grants of approximately \$1,045,000, but funding has dropped now that the trial period is over, according to Director of Off-Campus Programs Cathy Messmer.

It is now the job of a task force headed by Associate Professor of Sociology Jonathan

Reader to determine the future direction that this and other CLA international programs will take.

The Second Year Seminar's original two-year budget called for over \$1 million per year to send all second-year students abroad.

The University, however, cannot afford to achieve this goal. One responsibility of the task force is to put together and review other seminar models that could be more attuned to the University's economic constraints while attempting to continue some of the present seminars' academic concepts.

At this time, the task force is still evaluating models to present to the faculty.

Messmer expressed her hope that it will reach a decision by the end of this semester.

The Second-Year Seminar meets a need for students who lack the time or money to pursue other off-campus programs, according to Messmer.

She added that the program also attracts students who otherwise would not consider studying abroad.

Cheney to speak in Forum

The Acorn News Service

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney will address the Drew community in the Baldwin Gymnasium at 8 p.m. September 19.

Cheney worked as Assistant to the President and White House Chief of Staff in the Ford Administration and was elected to Congress as a representative of the state of Wyoming six times.

Under former President George Bush, he became Secretary of Defense. While holding that position, he gained recognition as a major influence on the emerging national security strategy and as a strong leader during the Gulf War.

Students, faculty and staff can purchase discount tickets for \$2 for his speech entitled "On the Years Ahead" in the William E. and Carol G. Simon Forum and Athletic Center starting one hour before the lecture begins. Members of the Drew Community should use the main circular entrance to the Forum and bring a Drew I.D. when buying tickets.

Public Safety will close all gates to campus from Route 124 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the 19th for reasons of security. Students, faculty and staff will have access to the campus through the Glenwild Gate. All gates will re-open at 8 p.m.

Traffic flow around campus, particularly near the Forum, will be altered during Cheney's visit. Drivers should follow the signs that will be posted by Public Safety.

Set-up for the lecture will require some changes in the regular operating schedule of the Simon Center.

Sunday morning, Baldwin Gym and the large indoor playing area will be closed; all other facilities in the Simon Center will operate on a normal schedule until 5:30 p.m. Monday.

Election Petitions Available

The Acorn News Service

The Student Government Association is looking for motivated students with original ideas to represent each residence hall, the theme houses, CUE students, commuter students and the first-year class.

Petitions for these positions are still available at the U.C. Desk and are due Monday by 9 p.m. in the SGA office.

There will be a mandatory meeting for all candidates Tuesday at 9 p.m.

Questions should be addressed to the SGA office at x3450.

Elections will be held Monday, September 26th.